

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 290255  
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:IO/UNA:BJSHARP

APPROVED BY:IO/UNA:JFTEFFT

S/S-O:JGUNDERSEN

-----063372 060651Z /21

R 060135Z DEC 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 290255

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 17517 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO  
LENINGRAD BELGRADE DEC 03.  
QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 17517

EXDIS

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT CSCE SHUM UR

SUBJECT: SHCHARANSKIY TRAIL

1. DURING A READOUT OF HIS RECENT LENGTHY MEETINGS  
HERE WITH TOP US-WATHER YURIY ARBATOV (HEAD OF  
USA/CANADA INSITTUTE, CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE CANDIDATE  
MEMBER), MIDDLEBURY PRESIDENT OLIN ROBINSON TOLD ABM  
THAT WHEN QUERIED ARBATOV  
--OPINED THAT SHCHARANSKIY WOULD SOON BE TRIED--  
PERPHAS LATE DECEMBER OR EARLY JANUARY.  
--"IN EFFECT" CONFIRMED THAT THE TRIAL HAD THUS FAR  
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BEEN POSTPONED FOR POLITICAL REASONS.

2. ROBINSON SAID HE TOLD ARBATOV THAT, GIVEN THE  
LIKELY IMPACT OF A TRIAL ONUS PUBLIC OPINION, THE  
SOVIETS MUSTTAKE ANOTHER HARD POLITICAL  
DECISION--RATHER THAN A LEGALISTIC ONE--  
FROM A PERSPECTIVE OF HOW A TRIAL WOULD AFFECT

US-SOVIET RELATIONS IN GENERAL. ARBATOV  
COUNTERED THAT REPEATED REFERENCES TO SHCHARANSKIY  
ON VOA, WHICH WOVIETS FOUND HIGHLY IRRITATING,  
REFLECTED A USG POLITICAL DECISION.

3. IN REPLY ROBISON REFERRED TO ARBATOV'S  
DEFENSIVE STATEMENTS EARLIER THIS YEAR THAT  
SOVIET MEDIA CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT CARTER DID  
NOT REFLECT A SENIOR POLITICAL DECISION: RATHER  
IT WAS THE RESULT OF INDIVIDUAL SOVIET COMMENTATION  
STRAYING AFIELD. SIMILARLY, VENTRUED ROBISON,  
CURRENT VOA COVERAGE OF SHCHARANSKIY IS PROBABLY  
THE PRODUCT OF ROUTINE DECISIONS BY STAFFERS RATHER  
THAN TOP LEVEL POLICY MAKERS.  
TOON UNQUOTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE290255  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** IO/UNA:BJSHARP  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**TAGS:** PINT, SHUM, UR, CSCE  
**To:** USUN NEW YORK  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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